



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2023

PRIVATE SESSION

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill (regrets) S. Ruttan E. Eckloff (Student Trustee) (regrets) A.J. O'Keefe (Student Trustee) (regrets) A. Wang (Student Trustee) (regrets)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent
Guests:	Recorder:
	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Godkin called the meeting to order.

2. RESOLVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND PRIVATE SESSION

MOTION: To move into Private Session.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Vice-Chair Godkin asked Trustees if they had a conflict of interest to declare with any of the agenda items. There were no conflicts declared.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- 4.1 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (private) – September 20, 2023

MOVED BY: Trustee Brown that the minutes listed in Action Items, Private Session, as distributed, be approved. Carried.

5. FOR INFORMATION

- 5.1 Safe Schools Update – Associate Superintendent Gollogly provided a safe schools update.
- 5.2 Property Update – Superintendent Young provided a property update that resulted in a motion.
- 5.3 Personnel Update – No update at this time.
- 5.4 Labour Update – No update at this time.
- 5.5 Legal Update – Superintendent Young provided a legal update.
- 5.6 OPSBA Update – No update at this time.

6. REPORT TO PUBLIC SESSION

Vice-Chair Godkin called for a motion for the Board to rise and report.

MOTION: That the Board rise and report.

MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott. Carried.

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown G. Elliott B. Godkin (Vice-Chair) R. Hutcheon (Chair) T. Lloyd K. Maracle K. McGregor J. Morning J. Neill (regrets) S. Ruttan E. Eckloff (Student Trustee) A.J. O'Keefe (Student Trustee) A. Wang (Student Trustee)	K. Burra, Director of Education S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education P. Gollogly, Associate Superintendent S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent A. McDonnell, Superintendent of Education S. McWilliams, Superintendent of Human Resources S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent J. Silver, Superintendent of Education C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services T. McKenna, Associate Superintendent
Guests:	Recorder:
None at this time.	S. Mitton, Executive Assistant to the Director and Trustee Liaison

Chair Hutcheon welcomed everyone to the Regular Board Meeting and called the roll.

Trustee Morning provided the Acknowledgement of Territory. "The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence and care of this land as well as all Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. For 7 years in the 198's, I worked in a school district in the Southern Interior of B.C. where one-third to two-thirds of students were First Nations. The provincial government had approved a logging road through the sacred, pristine 110,000 hectare Stein Valley watershed, home to Lytton and Mt. Currie Native Bands since time immemorial. Stein Voices for the Wilderness Festivals began in 1985 and grew to over 2000 Native and Non-Native participants who recognized the need to preserve the land if the land is to nurture and support us. In 1988, we all celebrated when logging the Stein was cancelled. This is what I see as part of reconciliation- working with our Indigenous caretakers of the land to stop its exploitation and to honour the true holders of that land."

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Godkin that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

8. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair Hutcheon asked that if Trustees have a conflict of interest, could they please identify the agenda item number. There were no conflicts declared.

9. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION

9.1 Overview of EQAO Data for 2023

Associate Superintendents Sartor and Hedderson presented the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) highlights from the 2022-2023 assessment.

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared some of the primary and junior EQAO 2022-23 contextual data. She reminded Trustees that the format and delivery of the assessment has changed significantly over the past four years and prior to the pandemic. She shared results for students in the areas of Math, Reading and Writing for elementary students including results for students with special educational needs.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson presented some of the Secondary EQAO and OSSLT results for students with and without special educational needs. Associate Superintendent Sartor reviewed the qualitative data that was collected through a student survey for primary students who have participated in assessments in reading. She explained how there is a direct link between improvement in achievement and student reported confidence. Associate Superintendent Hedderson reviewed assessment results for secondary math. He noted that there will be a survey completed for the twenty-six priority schools for students in Grades three, six, and nine.

Associate Superintendent Sartor recalled the three questions that were at the centre of a district-wide inquiry last year, that gathered street data to better understand students and other stakeholders' experiences in Limestone and how we can better serve students in the margins, or those who have been historically underserved in our system:

1. For whom is the current education system not working and why?
2. How do I/we know?
3. What will I/we try/do differently?

She showed Trustees the Student Achievement Plan graphic which represents the three priority areas which form the work to support the Better Schools and Better Student Outcomes Act (Bill 98). This includes achievement of learning outcomes in core academic skills, preparation of students for future success and student engagement and well-being. Associate Superintendent Hedderson shared a graphic representing some of the work that has already been undertaken in the system including:

- Ensuring Human Rights by eliminating harm
- Pathways of choice
- High-quality learning & instruction
- Data literacy and guidance

Associate Superintendent Sartor concluded that the current focus is to improve on these results and indicated that the senior team is dedicated to the work ahead. She highlighted that the path forward includes a focus on literacy. This will be supported by the following:

- Learning coaches.
- Supporting the implementation of the new Grade 1-8 language curriculum.
- Working alongside schools to build literacy teams.
- ESL team – aligning practice with literacy team.
- Supporting learning and implementation of universal screening in K-2.
- System expansion of Empower.
- Building caregiver knowledge and support materials.
- Secondary program team support.
- Secondary OSSLT preparation materials.
- Lead success teachers working with Grade 10 classroom teachers for preparation prior to testing.

Chair Hutcheon thanked Associate Superintendents Sartor and Hedderson for their presentation and called upon Trustees for questions.

10. PRIVATE SESSION REPORT

Chair Hutcheon called upon Trustee Godkin to give his report.

Vice-Chair Godkin stated that earlier this evening during private session:

- The minutes were approved from the Regular Board Meeting of September 20, 2023.
- Associate Superintendent Gollogly gave a safe schools update.
- Superintendent Young gave a legal and property update which resulted in a motion.
- There was no other business conducted, or motions passed in private session.

MOTION MOVED By Vice-Chair Godkin and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the Private Session Report be received. Carried.

11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

11.1 Regular Board Meeting – September 20, 2023

11.2 EPOC Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2023

MOVED BY Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Brown that the Minutes, as presented, be approved. Carried.

12. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

12.1 Chair's Update

Chair Hutcheon stated: "The Limestone District School Board, along with our partners at the Ontario Public School Boards' Association are working to raise civic awareness among our district and larger community by observing Local Government Week from October 16 to 20. School board trustees are the oldest form of elected representation in Ontario. The Board of Trustees, through consultation with our communities, sets the vision, mission and values of the board, develops policies, and allocates resources. The multi-year strategic plan for student achievement and well-being which is under development now, lays the foundation and sets the goals that drive programs and operations in Limestone.

Tonight, we will review the progress of the current strategic plan as the first year of the term ends. may we take a moment to be thoughtful and acknowledge some of the achievements attained over the past year, including:

- As I mentioned, the undertaking of a new strategic plan. This is critically important for the future of the LDSB. The plan will help shape the future directions and culture of the district.
- The efforts of staff and Trustees in working through this year's budget, the largest to date with total operating expenditures of 280.8 million, which includes board- directed funding to support Equity and Inclusion positions.

In addition to our governance work as a Board, we supported Limestone staff in moving forward with several key initiatives this past year, including:

- A continued focus on anti-racism work and equity and inclusion along with the creation and launch of a Human Rights video and school poster to increase knowledge and awareness of the board's Human Rights Complaint reporting tool.
- A Special Education Review.
- Continued work and initiatives, particularly in the areas of equity, diversity and inclusion that was identified through the See Yourself in Limestone: Workforce Census and Belonging Survey (WCBS).

On behalf of this Board of Trustees, I wish to acknowledge the leadership of Director Burra and work of Senior Staff, and the various support staff here at the LDSB Education Centre that support our schools. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for always being student-focused, and for supporting all of us through this first-year of a new four-year term. Through all of this, Trustees remained focused on making decisions that effectively served all students.

And that concludes my report.”

12.2 Director's Update

Director Burra stated: “Good evening Trustees and members of the viewing public. I have several updates I would like to share with you this evening.

There is much to celebrate in Limestone on a regular basis. To draw attention to some recent highlights, I would like to acknowledge several educators for honours they have recently received: Brenda Scarlett at Bayridge Secondary School received an honourable mention for the Learning for a Sustainable Future: Susan Langley's Earth Steward Teaching Award; and Wade Leonard at Granite Ridge Education Centre won the Gilles Gagnier Medal for Innovation in Geographic Education for his ongoing work with students using drones. It should be noted that Wade was on CBC radio this morning discussing his work with students using drones. In addition, the work of the Limestone Building Construction Internship Program and Habitat for Humanity focused on Tiny Homes was also featured on CBC Radio this morning. These are significant honours and a testament to the excellent work by Limestone staff that occurs on a daily basis.

I have often said that the stakes of our work in Education are immense. This is usually in the context of supporting student achievement and wellbeing, but as we have seen in the last couple of weeks, the stakes can be much higher. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of school staff at four different schools in responding to significant crises: very serious medical emergencies at two schools, a Lockdown at a third school, and Hold and Secure at an adjacent school. These types of crises require significant collaboration and timely responses. It should give us all comfort in knowing that each of these situations were effectively managed and supported by school staff with the support of central staff.

As a reminder to Trustees and the viewing public, we are in the midst of the 2023 United Way fundraising campaign. Given significant economic dislocation, housing costs, and food security concerns, it is critical for those that can support this campaign do so, to help support some of the most vulnerable children, youth, and families in the region. Limestone is a proud contributor to this annual campaign.

This evening Trustees will see the final annual report for the LDSB Strategic Plan, 2017-2023. We will also be bringing forward a summary of extensive summer programming offered this past summer, and an update on the Limestone Math Action Plan. Earlier this evening, Trustees had an opportunity to view the 2022-2023 EQAO results. While the last three years have been challenging with the ongoing pandemic, and we have seen very good work occurring in the system and some much-needed focus on human rights and equity, we have significant work ahead of us in supporting improved student achievement. This is not an either-or dichotomy. We need to do both. I would also like to emphasize that focusing on improved teaching and learning in classrooms is a critical part of our equity work in ensuring that each student has the skills and confidence to access their pathway of choice as they navigate through their time in Limestone. As I indicated earlier, the stakes of our work are incredibly high, and we have a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that we maintain focused attention on student achievement.

And finally, on a related note, as indicated earlier, we will be launching a second round of consultation focused on the draft mission, vision, pillars, and board values in the coming weeks to help support and focus our work in developing a new strategic plan to provide direction for the years ahead. I look forward to continuing critical work in Limestone with the new strategic plan as we move into the future, doing the best we can to serve students and families.

Thank you, Chair Hutcheon, that completes my update for this evening.”

13. REPORTS

13.1 OPSBA Report – Trustee McGregor

Trustee McGregor provided Trustees with her OPSBA report:

Presentations:

Ontario eLearning Consortium:

- 214% increase in enrolment in courses.
- 55 Boards participating.
- Wait lists (up to 1000); interested in having all boards share data so sections can be filled to avoid wait lists.

OPSBA Re-Brand Update:

- Looked at options for rebranding OPSBA logo.

New Business:

Virtual Conference & Meeting Options:

After consideration and break down of expenses, OPSBA Conferences will continue to be in person.

Advocacy Day:

Monday, November 27 at Queen's Park. The purpose of OPSBA's Advocacy Day meetings are to re-introduce OPSBA and its priorities to the government and the opposition parties. It is also an opportunity to increase and elevate the overall awareness of the Association and its advocacy efforts. A "Save the Date" flyer has been sent to MPPs.

Eastern Regional Meeting:

Saturday, November 4 at Gananoque Intermediate Secondary School hosted by UCDSB.

Note:

Follow up to Trustee Neill's "School Board Rep on Board of Health Unit"

I spoke with OPSBA Executive Director, Stephanie Donaldson who emphatically supported the idea. She has served on the Toronto Public Health Board as one of 4 reps from Education, each one taking a turn for the 4-year term.

13.2 Student Trustees' Report

Student Trustee O'Keefe provided the following report: "The second Inner Student Council (ISC) Meeting was held at the Limestone Board Office on October 17, 2023, led by trustees Wang and Eckloff. All school representatives were present with regrets of North Addington Education Centre and Frontenac Secondary School.

The meeting began with a roundtable, and an opportunity to reintroduce representatives. For

the first agenda item, Trustee Eckloff asked representatives to review September student involvement in their respective schools, highlighting school events that engaged students. On the whole, representatives spoke positively about successful events and felt they had accomplished engagement. Examples of events held throughout the school board include:

- Culture Day
- Coffee House
- Spirit Weeks
- Grade Nine Day Giveaways
- Terry Fox Day
- Assemblies
- Building a Playground for students with disabilities
- Staff versus student basketball game

Each representative talked about in-process planning for Halloween including events such as haunted hallways, boo bags, Halloweek, pumpkin painting, and Halloween for Hunger.

Trustee Eckloff asked representatives to review Orange Shirt Day activities at their respective schools. At each school, teachers and student council representatives wore orange shirts. Overall representatives said engaging students to wear orange was challenging. Of note, Ernestown Secondary School had a successful day that included their Indigenous council representative presenting an educational video about the significance of Orange Shirt Day and holding a fundraiser for the Orange Shirt Society. Napanee District Secondary School held a smudging ceremony and is hoping for an increased turnout in the future.

Trustees Eckloff, Wang, and O'Keefe understand from their own experiences in their own schools that promoting school spirit and events to engage students can be challenging. Trustee Wang led representatives through a brainstorming session to gather ideas on prompting spirit. Representatives discussed how some spirit events are not accessible or of interest to all students.

This rich discussion allowed representatives to learn from each other and to talk about what was successful at their school and therefore a good event to replicate at their school. Successful events had certain themes in common such as events/spirit days set up as a competition. An example of a competition is students get points for their grade when they participate.

Representatives also talked about the importance of communicating events on social media platforms including Instagram and Tik Tok. Ensuring events are announced on morning

announcements also helps with engagement.

Additionally, Trustee Wang and I, Trustee O’Keefe, will be attending the Fall OSTEACO from tomorrow until Sunday, October 22nd.”

Chair Hutcheon thanked Student Trustee O’Keefe for her report.

13.3 Reports for Action – None at this time.

13.4 Reports for Information

13.4.1 Math Action Plan Update

Associate Superintendent Hedderson introduced the Math Achievement Action Plan blueprint. He shared the vision is to develop a K-12 Limestone mathematics community of excellence in every mathematics classroom in every school. To achieve this, he highlighted some key areas of focus:

- The importance of engaging in math communities in classrooms and schools and to recognize that not all students learn math in the same way or within the same time frames.
- Offering an inclusive, positive, and safe learning environment where students feel valued and engaged and expectations are clearly communicated.
- Review practices to determine barriers to success, creating accountability and attending to mathematics attitudes and mindsets in schools. This includes the full implementation of the Math Achievement Action Plan.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson outlined expectations for leadership for learning. This includes a culture of high expectations, instructional leadership and making learning and growth visible. He also explained learning expectations for ourselves, students and the profession which includes collaborating to build the collective efficacy of all Limestone educators, education workers and program leaders. There are three key enablers for collective efficacy and improved student outcomes:

- Professional learning
- Professional noticing
- Professional wisdom

Associate Superintendent Hedderson reviewed the structure of the central math team. He

explained that the math team is currently engaged in data gathering, collaboration with math partners, and communication with priority math schools and the system. He outlined Phase 1 which will take place for the time period of October 27, 2023 – February 1, 2024. This phase will include:

- Capacity building focus for elementary.
- Focus on the fundamentals of fluency.
- Building fluency.
- Capacity building focus for secondary.
- Initiate feedback loop (clarity and responsiveness).

Chair Hutcheon thanked Associate Superintendent Hedderson and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

13.4.2 Summer Programming Report

Superintendent Gillam began by introducing the summer programming report. He explained that senior staff will share the highlights of some of the programs that were offered over the summer. He began with special education and mental health:

- Transition supports -645 students received EA, ECE, AC, SSC or ACW support
- Summer camps – 8 EAs, ACW
- PD – Community resilience training, ASIST, safeTalk, Y, BMS
- Mental Health Lit – 80 educators
- Psychiatry pilot – Kingston Health Sciences Centre – 20 students

Superintendent McDonnell share the highlights from the Gould Lake summer program:

- 449 students participated in summer programming.
- 93 students in Grades 1-3 participated in Nature Camp at Loughborough PS, École Maple ES, Southview PS and Molly Brant ES.
- Eight credit and non-credit programs ran for 356 Intermediate/Senior students including multiple day and overnight trips.
- Friends of Outreach two-day paddle to Parliament Hill on August 29, 2023, in an effort to raise funds to eliminate financial barriers and equitable access for student participation.

Associate Superintendent Sartor shared information about the Summer Read-A-Lot Program:

- Professional learning for approximately 70 educators – two full days of learning.
- Focus on literacy in reading (decoding) and writing (encoding).

- Collection of student achievement and voice data.

Associate Superintendent Hedderson provided some statistics of summer school for Grades 9-12:

- 478 eLearning students
- 184 co-op students
- 17 RELC students
- 679 total students

The Recognition of Experiential Learning for Credit (RELC) program is a program that is a part of the Ministry of Education pilot project which started last school year with 8 other boards. The intention is to engage with community partners where students might already have a relationship, and use the learning to grant a credit. The credit will focus on the learning experience and relate it to some key transferable skills which can be applied to school work and potential future careers.

Associate Superintendent Gollogly reviewed the Focus on Youth Program:

- 35 youth leaders and recreational assistants in a variety of camps offered by the Southeast Kingston Boys and Girls Club and the Kingston YMCA
- 560 newcomers, refugees and immigrants, over 140 children with disabilities received enhanced support and the largest number of subsidies to date.

Chair Hutcheon thanked the senior team for their report and called upon Trustees for questions.

13.4.3 Strategic Plan – End-of-Year Report 2022-2023

Director Burra invited the Senior Staff team to the podium to present the strategic end-of-year report for the 2022-2023 school year. He indicated that this is a requirement outlined in the Education Act for review on an annual basis. The progress of work completed uses the traffic light system which is designed to operationalize the achievement of the strategic goals. He noted that this is the end of the complete cycle. The new strategic plan is still in development and work is being completed to ensure it is aligned with the feedback collected, and with Bill 98 in mind. The next step is to bring forward the template for the new plan and feedback in the coming months ahead. Director Burra noted that we will not do a mid-year update, however the senior team will bring a year-end report in the fall of 2024.

Superintendents Gillam, McDonnell, McWilliams, Silver, and Associate Superintendents Gollogly, Hedderson and Sartor presented progress highlights for each of the three pillars of Wellness, Innovation and Collaboration.

Chair Hutcheon thanked the Superintendents and Associate Superintendents and called upon Trustees for comments or questions.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The motion brought forward by Trustee Neill will be deferred to a future Board meeting in Trustee Neill's absence.

15. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Danka Brewer was included in the package.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None at this time.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Brown asked a question about how the Board is addressing what is happening in the world as it relates to international events. Director Burra advised Trustees about messages that went out to the system and continued work with community partners impacted by these events.

19. COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

19.1 Parent Involvement Committee Minutes - May 4, 2023

19.2 Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes – May 9, 2023

19.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Minutes – September 13, 2023

20. FUTURE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

November 15, 2023 (Annual Meeting)

November 20, 2023 (Nominations/Special Meeting)

December 6, 2023 (EPOC)
January 17, 2024
February 7, 2024 (EPOC)
February 28, 2024
March 6, 2024 (EPOC)
March 27, 2024
April 24, 2024
May 1, 2024 (EPOC)
May 15, 2024
June 5, 2024 (EPOC)
June 19, 2024

21. ADJOURNMENT

*MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor and seconded by Trustee Lloyd that the meeting adjourn.
Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.